

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05618 111128Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

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R 111100Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO USDOC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2101

UNCLAS JIDDA 5618

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SA, LE, IR

SUBJECT: BUILDING MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT TRADE FAIR

REF USDOC 11999

1. NEW FAIR DATES PROPOSED PARAGRAPH TWO (2) REFTEL ARE NOT RPT NOT ACCEPTABLE TO EMBASSY. WE HAVE EXPENDED CONSIDERABLE TIME IN SHEPHERDING ORIGINAL 15 MARCH PROPOSAL THROUGH SAUDI BUREAUCRACY AND FEEL THAT SHIFTING HORSES AT THIS STAGE WOULD, AT BEST, DAMAGE EMBASSY CREDIBILITY AND MIGHT RESULT IN COMPLETE CANCELLATION OF FAIR.

2. FYI: NASER 'ASSAF, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION AND ABD AL-'AZIZ AL-GHAIN, JIDDA AIRPORT DIRECTOR, HAVE COLLABORATED TO WRITE AN OFFICIAL NOTE, ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, TO HRH PRINCE SULTAN, MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION, ASKING FOR FINAL RPT FINAL APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH FAIR IN MARCH 1976.

3. AS CAGNE AWARE, HOSING OF AIR OF THIS MAGNITUDE IS NEW EXPERIENCE FOR SAUDIS AND WILL INEVITABLY PUT SEVERE STRAIN ON ALREADY OVERBURDENED LOCAL RESOURCES, I.E., ELECTRICITY, WATER, HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS, ETC. CONSEQUENTLY, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT USDOC BEGIN PLANNING FOR DISPATCH OF TEAM TO JIDDA IN FEBRUARY 1976 TO HANDLE THE SOLVING/EXPEDITING OF PROBLEMS THAT WILL ARISE. CUSTOMS CLEARANCE FOR FAIR MATERIAL WILL BE FULL-TIME JOB.

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 05618 111128Z

4. EMBASSY WILL, OF COURSE, PROVIDE ALL ASSISTANCE POS-

SIBLE, BUT FORESEES THAT ESCALATING DEMANDS ON STAFF MAY
LEAD TO SHORTCHANGING OF FAIR PROJECT. WE FEEL THAT PRO-
POSED FAIR WILL BE SMASHING SUCCESS AND ENCOURAGE CAGNE TO
EXERT ALL EFFORTS TO PROVIDE NECESSARY ON-SITE PERSONNEL
IN FEBRUARY TO HANDLE FAIR BUSINESS.
HORAN

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NNN

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